



# SANITATION OF HUMAN WASTE

After a disaster, sewer and water systems may be unusable. It is important to handle human waste in a sanitary manner to avoid the spread of disease.

## METHODS

If the sewer lines are working but running water is not available to flush the toilet, use water from the nearest source by pouring water into the toilet bowl. Three to five gallons is sufficient, less may do. Sea water, dishwater, bath water, laundry water, or water from swimming pools may be used.

If the sewer lines from the toilet are broken but the toilet itself is intact, do not flush the toilet. The bowl may be lined with plastic garbage bags (double bagged) to collect waste. Put a small amount of disinfectant into the bag, seal and place in a tightly covered container, away from people.

**- Warning - If damage to water lines is suspected, do not flush toilets. Turn off water at main valve so contaminated water does not enter your water system.**

If the toilet is unusable, a portable camp toilet, sturdy bucket, or small trash can with a tight fitting lid may be used instead.

The military procedure is to bury waste matter in trenches 24"-30" deep, and cover with a thin layer of lime. Never deposit waste or garbage on open ground.

## SANITATION SUPPLIES NEEDED

### Large Metal or Plastic Trash Cans

Use for human waste and garbage. Be sure they have tight fitting covers.

### Large trash bags

Use to line toilet bowls, buckets, or small trash cans. They also make sanitary receptacles for the smaller bags.

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## Hygiene Supplies

Toilet paper, soap, sanitary napkins, etc. Try to keep a 2-week supply for emergency purposes.

## Disinfectant

If water is available, a solution of one part liquid chlorine bleach to 10 parts water is best. Do not use dry bleach, which is caustic and not safe for this type of use.

HTH\* (calcium hypochlorite) is available in swimming pool supply stores and is intended to be used in solution. It can be mixed and stored in advance. Follow directions on the package.

**\* Warning** - Chlorinated products such as HTH, which are intended to be mixed with water for use, can be hazardous if used dry.

Portable toilet chemicals, both liquid and dry, are available at recreational vehicle (RV) supply stores. These chemicals are designed especially for toilets not connected to sewer lines. Use according to the directions on the package.

Powdered, chlorinated lime, which is available at some building supply stores, can be used dry. Be sure to get chlorinated lime, not quick lime, which is highly alkaline and corrosive.